

## **Circle Meeting June 7, 2009**

### **Ministerial Search Committee**

Jennifer Kaye chaired the meeting which began with opening words from Barb Wallace.

There are four stages which must be completed by the SC in its quest to acquire a settled minister.

1. Learn about the hopes and needs of the congregants. This entails participation through circle meetings and surveys and we will be working through the summer and hope that you will support us in this endeavour by coming out to the meetings and answering the surveys.
2. We must put together an information packet for prospective ministers which will contain – among other things, a congregational record. This congregational record will be posted on a website at the end of October. This means that prospective ministers will be able to go to the website while searching for a “prospective” congregation. When a minister responds that he or she is interested in “checking us out”, the more detailed information packet will be sent along.
3. Pre Candidating. This is a confidential process as the minister has probably not told his congregation that he is leaving. At this point, we invite those selected to the “short list” to preach at a neutral pulpit and the search committee goes to listen to them. After hearing approximately 3 candidates, and after careful consideration, one candidate “rises to the top”
4. Candidating Stage – negotiated – financial and otherwise. The selected minister is invited to come for a week – hopefully with his/her spouse – to preach 2 Sundays with a week in between to meet with any and all of our congregation who wish to speak with him/her. During this week, we would show around the area. After preaching on the second Sunday, a vote would be taken by the congregation with a 95% approval needed of the quorum which is 40%. This will probably take place in May or June 2010.

At this point, the question period began.

Q. “If you find no one, does the process start over? A. Yes.

Q: What if the minister doesn’t like the congregation? A. He/she backs out.

Ali: Willing to help with the computer end of the packet. Her offer was accepted with thanks.

Q. Can the congregation change any of the procedures? For instance, could we have another week after the second preaching before the vote?

A. No. Minister would be under considerable stress and to go home and wait another week for the results, not feasible.

Q. How far ahead of the vote can the congregation know the name of the chosen candidate? A. There will be a couple of weeks before the vote.

The congregation will be kept informed in the newsletter and on the bulletin board about our progress as well as having access to a website where information will be posted.

### **What Would a New Minister Really LOVE about Our Church?**

- wonderful music ministry!
- sense of community – support – especially for those in difficulty
- We match up well with Rev. Ed’s comments on “Signs of Healthy Congregations”
- Great lay leadership – we have the skills to complement a minister
- Because of our independence, a new minister has freedom to focus on being creative and simply expanding on what/who/how we are
- The laity is also committed: when an idea or activity is suggested, someone will get it done.
- Great location
- Financial Stability. Stability of place, too. (not high risk for a minister)
- Welcoming community – in both the general and GLTBQ sense
- The physical space is also welcoming ... and adaptable
- Lots of kids. We have the potential to develop great CRE programming [it’s also clear we have the people because we’ve done it before]

- We are open. Not stagnant; not stuck in the past.
- Great place to live. Great theatre, arts, outdoors, cultural events,  
AFFORDABLE
- We have a lot to offer people (though we could do more for some)
- Lots of activities during the week

Do you agree with Rev. Brock's comment that we "don't need a saviour".

- we don't need a leader to shape us. Instead, we need one that will foster our strengths ... a "servant leader".
- We're not that needy [offered as another "strength"]
- We want leaders – highlight the "s"
- We want a minister who will work for/with us ... collegial.
- New minister, rather than saving, schools and empowers.
- We've learned ministry is temporary. A good minister gets us to a place where we don't need them anymore.